

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 02154 270235Z

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ACTION EA-14

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FOLLOWING EDITORIAL IN HONG KONG STANDARD FEB 27 ENTITLED
"ANTI-SEMITISM IN MANILA":

1. "THE EXTREMELY HIGH REGARD WITH WHICH MANILA THESE DAYS
HOLDS OIL-RICH ARAB NATIONS IS CLEARLY INDICATED IN THE CASE
OF PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS VS ONE ARNOLD ZEITLIN,
ASSOCIATED PRESS BUREAU CHIEF IN THE PHILIPPINES.

2. "MR ZEITLIN, IT WILL BE RECALLED, HAS BEEN SUMMONED TO
APPEAR BEFORE MR MARCOS' MEDIA ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
'MALICIOUS, FALSE AND ERRONEOUS REPORTING' ON THE FIGHTING
BETWEEN MUSLIM SECESSIONISTS IN JOLO. HIS CASE COMES
UP FOR HEARING THIS THURSDAY.

3. "BUT IN AN UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENT LAST WEEK, FOREIGN
SECRETARY CARLOS ROMULO HURRIEDLY SENT OFF AN APOLOGETIC
500-WORD 'CLARIFICATION' TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF EGYPT,
SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT, IN WHICH HE RENEWED ASSURANCES
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PAGE 02 HONG K 02154 270235Z

THAT PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TROOPS WERE NOT, IN FACT,

INDULGING IN THE WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER OF FILIPINO MUSLIMS.

4. "IN LANGUAGE EXTREMELY UNCHARACTERISTIC OF THE USUALLY CAREFUL, COURTLY VETERAN DIPLOMAT, THE MESSAGE WAS PRE-FACED WITH THE ASTONISHING REVELATION THAT MR ZEITLIN WAS UNDER SUSPICION FOR BEING 'A JEWISH JOURNALIST.' THE DELIBERATE PHRASEOLOGY IS SO UNLIKE GENERAL ROMULO, ONE WOULD ALMOST SUSPECT IT MAY HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF SOME-ONE ELSE. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO READ SEVERAL UGLY IMPLICATIONS INTO THE DESCRIPTION.

5. "THE MESSAGE FAILS TO EXPLAIN IF BELONGING TO THE JEWISH FAITH IS THESE DAYS FROWNED UPON IN THE PHILIPPINES, OR JUST HOW THE AMERICAN JOURNALIST'S RELIGIOUS BELIEFS HAVE ANY BEARING ON THE ACCURACY OF HIS WORK. IT DOES SUCCEED, HOWEVER, IN RATHER GRACELESSLY GETTING THIS MESSAGE ACROSS TO THE ARABS: MR ZEITLIN'S ZIONIST LEANINGS MAY HAVE BEEN BEHIND HIS 'MALICIOUS, FALSE AND ERRONEOUS' REPORTS, AND FILIPIONS, AS A NATION, ARE NOT REALLY TO BE BLAMED.

6. "THE PHILIPPINES' STRONG DEPENDENCY ON ARAB GOODWILL THESE DAYS IS WELL-KNOWN. THE NATION, AS REPORTED IN DECEMBER, HAS SHREWDLY PUT ITSELF INTO AN ENVIABLE POSITION IN THE WORLDWIDE ENERGY CRISIS BY ADDING THE ESSO REFINERY COMPLEX TO ANOTHER OIL REFINING INSTALLATION IT ALREADY OWNS, FIL-OIL. THESE WILL HAVE EVENTUALLY A COMBINED CAPACITY OF PRODUCING SOME 80 MILLION BARRELS OF REFINED FUEL A YEAR-- PROVIDED ARAB NATIONS SUPPLY THE PHILIPPINES WITH PRECIOUS CRUDE.

7. "THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' MOST REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST 16 MONTHS, AND IT IS ONLY UNDERSTANDABLE THAT HE WOULD BE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO ALLOW ANYONE, AND IN PARTICULAR A FOREIGN JOURNALIST, TO ROCK A CAREFULLY-BUILT BOAT." IZENBERG

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